

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RICHARD VELOZ,

No. C-12-06309-WHA (DMR)

Plaintiff(s),

**NOTICE OF REFERENCE; ORDER
DENYING PLAINTIFF'S DISCOVERY
LETTER [DOCKET NO. 33]; ORDER
RE DISCOVERY PROCEDURES**

v.

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC CO,

Defendant(s).

TO ALL PARTIES AND COUNSEL OF RECORD:

The above matter has been referred to Magistrate Judge Donna M. Ryu for resolution of all discovery matters. [Docket No. 35.]

On April 18, 2013, Plaintiff filed a Discovery Letter ("Plaintiff's Discovery Letter") requesting the court to order the depositions of three individuals represented by counsel for Defendant Pacific Gas and Electric Co. ("PG&E"). [Docket No. 33.] On April 23, 2013, PG&E filed a response. [Docket No. 34.] It appears from PG&E's response that the discovery dispute has been resolved. The court therefore DENIES Plaintiff's Discovery Letter without prejudice.

Pursuant to the procedures below, if the discovery dispute has not been resolved, the parties are directed to meet and confer about the discovery dispute, and if necessary, file a joint letter. Any joint letter regarding the instant discovery dispute shall be filed no later than **May 9, 2013**.

1 Discovery letter briefs must be e-filed under the Civil Events category of Motions and Related
2 Filings > Motions - General > "Discovery Letter Brief."

3 Parties shall comply with the procedures in this order, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,
4 and the Northern District of California's Local Rules, General Orders, and Standing Orders. Local
5 rules, general orders, standing orders, and instructions for using the Court's Electronic Case Filing
6 system are available at <http://www.cand.uscourts.gov>. Failure to comply with any of the rules or
7 orders may be a ground for sanctions.

8 RESOLUTION OF DISCOVERY DISPUTES

9 In order to respond to discovery disputes in a flexible, cost-effective and efficient manner,
10 the court uses the following procedure. The parties shall not file formal discovery motions. Instead,
11 as required by the federal and local rules, the parties shall first meet and confer to try to resolve their
12 disagreements. The meet and confer session must be *in person or by telephone*, and may not be
13 conducted by letter, e-mail, or fax. If disagreements remain, the parties shall file a joint letter no
14 later than five business days after the meet and confer session, unless otherwise directed by the
15 court. **Lead trial counsel for both parties must sign the letter**, which shall include an attestation
16 that the parties met and conferred in person or by telephone regarding all issues prior to filing the
17 letter. Going issue-by-issue, the joint letter shall describe each unresolved issue, summarize each
18 party's position with appropriate legal authority; and provide each party's final proposed
19 compromise before moving to the next issue. The joint letter shall not exceed ten pages without
20 leave of court. **Parties are expected to plan for and cooperate in preparing the joint letter so**
21 **that each side has adequate time to address the arguments.** In the rare instance that a joint letter
22 is not possible, each side may submit a letter not to exceed four pages, which shall include an
23 explanation of why a joint letter was not possible. The parties shall submit one exhibit to the letter
24 that only sets forth each disputed discovery request in full, followed immediately by the objections
25 and/or responses thereto. No other information shall be included in any such exhibit. No other
26 exhibits shall be submitted without prior approval by the court. The court will review the
27 submission(s) and determine whether formal briefing or proceedings are necessary. **Discovery**
28

1 **letter briefs must be e-filed under the Civil Events category of Motions and Related Filings >**
 2 **Motions - General > "Discovery Letter Brief".**

3 In the event that a discovery hearing is ordered, the court has found that it is often efficient
 4 and beneficial for counsel to appear *in person*. This provides the opportunity, where appropriate, to
 5 engage counsel in resolving aspects of the discovery dispute while remaining available to rule on
 6 any disputes that counsel are not able to resolve. For this reason, the court expects counsel to appear
 7 in person. Permission for a party to attend by telephone may be granted, in the court's discretion,
 8 upon written request made at least one week in advance of the hearing if the court determines that
 9 good cause exists to excuse personal attendance, and that personal attendance is not needed in order
 10 to have an effective discovery hearing. The facts establishing good cause must be set forth in the
 11 request.

12 In emergencies during discovery events (such as depositions), any party may, after
 13 exhausting good faith attempts to resolve disputed issues, seek judicial intervention pursuant to Civil
 14 L.R. 37-1(b) by contacting the court through the courtroom deputy. If the court is unavailable, the
 15 discovery event shall proceed with objections noted for the record.

16 **CHAMBERS COPIES AND PROPOSED ORDERS**

17 Pursuant to Civil L.R. 5-1(e)(7) and 5-2(b), parties must lodge an extra paper copy of certain
 18 filings and mark it as a copy for "Chambers." Please three-hole punch the chambers copy and
 19 submit it to the Oakland Clerk's Office.

20 Any stipulation or proposed order submitted by an e-filing party shall be submitted by email
 21 to dmrpo@cand.uscourts.gov as a word processing attachment on the same day the document is e-
 22 filed. This address should only be used for this stated purpose unless otherwise directed by the
 23 court.

24 **PRIVILEGE LOGS**

25 If a party withholds information that is responsive to a discovery request by claiming that it
 26 is privileged or otherwise protected from discovery, that party shall *promptly* prepare and provide a
 27 privilege log that is sufficiently detailed and informative for the opposing party to assess whether a
 28 document's designation as privileged is justified. *See* Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(b)(5). The privilege log shall

1 set forth the privilege relied upon and specify separately for each document or for each category of
2 similarly situated documents:

3 (a) the title and description of the document, including number of pages or

4 Bates-number range;

5 (b) the subject matter addressed in the document;

6 (c) the identity and position of its author(s);

7 (d) the identity and position of all addressees and recipients;

8 (e) the date the document was prepared and, if different, the date(s) on which it was
9 sent to or shared with persons other than its author(s); and

10 (f) the specific basis for the claim that the document is privileged or protected.

11 Communications involving trial counsel that post-date the filing of the complaint need not be
12 placed on a privilege log. Failure to furnish this information promptly may be deemed a waiver of
13 the privilege or protection.

14
15 IT IS SO ORDERED.

16
17 Dated: April 29, 2013



18
19 DONNA M. RYU
United States Magistrate Judge